

PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Awards 990,000 to Local State Park Projects

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Department of Conservation & Recreation

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BOSTON — Continuing to make significant investments within the Massachusetts state parks system, the Baker-Polito Administration today announced \$990,582 in funding to twenty five municipalities, non-profit organizations, and other entities as part of the Fiscal Year 2019 [**Partnerships Matching Funds Program**](#)

[\(/service-details/partnerships-matching-funds-program\)](/service-details/partnerships-matching-funds-program). The program, which is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), provides critical funds for projects that are proposed by park advocacy groups, civic and community organizations, institutions, non-state government partners, and individuals with an interest in improving the Commonwealth’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

“Developing public, private partnerships remains a vital component of our Administration’s efforts to leverage state dollars with private funds for common goals that directly benefit the public,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “The funding provided to these

twenty-five projects through the Partnerships Matching Funds Program will have a long lasting impact on the Commonwealth's state parks system."

"By working closely with passionate advocacy groups, non-profit organizations, individuals, and municipal leaders, we are able to make significant investments that will enhance state parks throughout the Commonwealth," **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito.** "Organizations present strong project proposals for consideration every year, and I am pleased we are able to use this program to continue to focus on the needs of local parks, communities, and regions."

Projects proposed within the state parks system are thoroughly reviewed by agency staff and the DCR Commissioner. Once selected, the agency matches the private investment in the park. All projects are managed by DCR to oversee the implementation of the project in close consultation with contributing partners and other stakeholders.

"The Partnership Matching Funds Program expands access within state parks across the Commonwealth by providing critical funds to support these twenty-five worthwhile projects," **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton.** "Projects such as the construction of new pathways, trail improvements, and ADA compliant features are just some of the many enhancements that will be made utilizing these funds."

"The Baker-Polito Administration continues to work closely with dedicated individuals and organizations to foster strong public, private partnerships in order to achieve important shared goals," **said Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Leo Roy.** "The state parks system offers a wealth of recreational opportunities, and the DCR is proud to work with park advocates to enhance our natural, cultural, and recreation resources for all to enjoy."

DCR matches partner contributions of up to and including \$25,000 at 2:1, and 1:1 for contributions above \$25,000. In certain circumstances, DCR will consider a 2:1 match for contributions above \$25,000, for example multi-phase projects with the same partner. Partner matches are donated to the Commonwealth's Conservation Trust.

Some of Fiscal Year 2019's Partnership Matching Funds Program projects include:

- The creation of a new trail in the Blue Hills Reservation in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the death of First Lady Abigail Adams;
- The development of new maps and brochures for the Deerfield Trails in Charlemont;
- The restoration of historic lamp posts along Revere Beach;
- Repairs and improvements to trails within Upton State Forest;
- The design of a community skate park in Southwest Corridor Park in Boston; and,
- ADA improvements to the Clock Tower Building at Nantasket Beach.

“Massachusetts individuals, families and businesses benefit from our quality open spaces and parks, and these partnerships among our communities and the state will enhance these resources for years to come,” **said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop)**. “I’m pleased this program will improve access and the maintenance of our public recreational and open spaces across the Commonwealth.”

“The partnerships between DCR and community partners like the Revere Beautification Committee are an example of the positive impact that the state can make when it works with its constituents. The restoration of important historical landmarks like the ones being worked on at the Revere Beach Reservation, honor America’s first public beach by ensuring that future generations can enjoy its rich history,” **said State Senator Joseph Boncore (D-Winthrop)**.

“I am thankful to have great organizations like the Friends of Paragon Carousel and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands that dedicate their time to preserving and improving important community landmarks,” **said State Senator Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth)**. “The Partnership Matching Funds will go a long way in preserving some of the South Shore’s history.”

“Thank you to DCR for choosing to partner with the Friends of Paragon Carousel in Hull. This collaborative investment in the Clock Tower building will make a culturally significant space accessible to all members of the community,” **said State Representative Joan Meschino (D- Hull)**.

“I would like to thank Commissioner Roy, the DCR and the Revere Beautification Committee for their continued commitment to America’s First Public Beach. This grant will allow for two historic lamps to be restored, and hopefully this grant will be the catalyst for the future improvements along Revere Beach.” **State Representative RoseLee Vincent (D-Revere).**

The following projects were awarded DCR Partnerships Matching Funds for FY’19:

Applicant: Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA)

Community: Upton

Amount Awarded: \$25,529

Proposal Summary: The BSTRA is a longtime partner of DCR. The FY19 project continues the trail work done in FY18 by reopening drainage ditches and spreading processed gravel for a uniform, safe surface.

Applicant: City of Medford/WalkMedford

Community: Medford

Amount Awarded: \$70,000

Proposal Summary: This is a multi-year project with the City; Phase I includes the design and permitting of a new, accessible, and shared-use greenway path along the Mystic River.

Applicant: Converse/Wheels of Steel

Community: Boston

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Proposal Summary: This is a project from FY14 that is finally underway thanks to the dedicated individuals at Converse, Wheels of Steel, and DCR. This project will fund the design and construction of a renovated community skate park in the Southwest Corridor in Jamaica Plain.

Applicant: Deerfield Trails

Community: Charlemont

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Proposal Summary: The funding for this project will be used to develop a new map and brochure to highlight the trail. Additionally, trail signs will be designed and installed for trailheads and intersections.

Applicant: Esplanade Association

Community: Boston

Amount Awarded: \$6,668

Proposal Summary: In an effort to combat graffiti, the Esplanade Association, in partnership with local artists volunteering their time and talents, will display new artwork on three concrete pump houses along the Esplanade.

Applicant: Friends of Borderland State Park

Community: Easton

Amount Awarded: \$3,000

Proposal Summary: The Friends of Borderland are partnering with DCR to install an ADA-compliant, functional water fountain outside the visitors' center.

Applicant: Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center

Community: Turners Falls

Amount Awarded: \$16,000

Proposal Summary: This is a multi-year project for repairs and educational enhancements to the Great Falls Discovery Center. This includes a diorama of the Triassic-Jurassic period and an exhibit to display dinosaur fossils donated by a local collector.

Applicant: Friends of Herter Park

Community: Boston

Amount Awarded: \$22,088

Proposal Summary: The Friends of Herter Park have proposed ADA-compliant improvements to the amphitheater including new ramps, railings, and seating.

Applicant: Friends of Lake Quinsigamond

Community: Worcester

Amount Awarded: \$16,666

Proposal Summary: DCR is partnering with the Friends of Lake Quinsigamond for a feasibility study to repair and restore the Finish Tower at Regatta Point.

Applicant: Friends of Leo J. Martin Skiing

Community: Weston

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Proposal Summary: This is a multi-year project for a new pump house to allow for the use of snow guns in the winter and better irrigation during the golf season.

Applicant: Friends of the Blue Hills

Community: Milton

Amount Awarded: \$13,434

Proposal Summary: The Friends of The Blue Hills partnered with REI to create a new trail in honor of the 200th anniversary of the death of former First Lady Abigail Adams.

Applicant: Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands (FoBHI)

Community: Hingham

Amount Awarded: \$16,000

Proposal Summary: The FoBHI partnered with DCR for a feasibility study to disassemble, relocate, and reconstruct a historic oil house on Lovells Island.

Applicant: Friends of Paragon Carousel

Community: Hull

Amount Awarded: \$36,668

Proposal Summary: In an effort to restore the Clock Tower Building in Hull, the Friends of the Paragon Carousel proposed making the bathrooms ADA-compliant and installing a fire suppression system.

Applicant: Private Individual

Community: Becket

Amount Awarded: \$26,666.66

Proposal Summary: A generous citizen requested partnership funding with DCR to support the mechanical harvesting and removal of invasive aquatic plants in Buckley Dunton Reservoir.

Applicant: Magazine Beach Partners

Community: Cambridge

Amount Awarded: \$46,666

Proposal Summary: As a longtime partner of DCR, Magazine Beach Partners have two ongoing projects with the agency. The first is to build an outlook at Magazine Beach.

Applicant: Magazine Beach Partners

Community: Cambridge

Amount Awarded: \$155,450

Proposal Summary: The second of two projects is dedicated to shoreline edge work, including new plantings, vegetation pruning, and a riverside path.

Applicant: Maudslay State Park Association (MSPA)

Community: Newburyport

Amount Awarded: \$100,000

Proposal Summary: The MSPA is entering into the second phase of a multi-year project to restore the dam at Flowering Pond.

Applicant: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Community: Cambridge

Amount Awarded: \$6,800

Proposal Summary: MIT proposed installing a speed feedback sign to make the pedestrian crosswalk safer at the Ames Street intersection of Memorial Drive.

Applicant: Quincy Homestead

Community: Quincy

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Proposal Summary: The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America partnered with DCR to repair damage to the Quincy Homestead, a building on the National Register of Historic Places. This includes the removal of asbestos and the preservation of historic interior walls.

Applicant: Revere Beautification Committee (RBC)

Community: Revere

Amount Awarded: \$7,400

Proposal Summary: The RBC requested partnership funding to restore two historic lamp posts on Revere Beach.

Applicant: Save the Cove

Community: Newton

Amount Awarded: \$9,268

Proposal Summary: The project seeks the ongoing treatment of weeds in Ware's Cove to restore fisheries habitat, improve water quality, maintain boating and shore access, and reduce the spread of invasive weeds to new areas.

Applicant: Town of Conway Open Space Committee

Community: Conway

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Proposal Summary: The Town of Conway partnered with DCR for the removal of Japanese Knotweed in the Gorge at South River State Forest. This will improve the native turtles' ability to lay eggs.

Applicant: Town of Pepperell

Community: Pepperell

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Proposal Summary: The Town of Pepperell requested additional funding for the second of a five-year treatment of 100 acres of water chestnuts on the Nashua River.

Applicant: Wachusett Greenways

Community: West Boylston

Amount Awarded: \$125,000

Proposal Summary: The Wachusett Greenways partnered with DCR to begin construction of the first section of the Mass Central Rail Trail on Route 140 and Beaman Street Causeway in West Boylston.

Applicant: Weston Rail Trail Advisory Committee (WRTAC)

Community: Weston

Amount Awarded: \$57,279

Proposal Summary: The WRTAC requested funding from DCR to plant native, deer-resistant flowering shrubs and other landscapes along the Wayside section of the Mass

Central Rail Trail.

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DCR manages state parks and oversees more than 450,000 acres throughout Massachusetts. It protects, promotes, and enhances the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

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